



1930 - 2015

Professor Simion Gocan, Ph.D. one of the most important personalities in separation sciences in Romania, was born in the village of Berindu, Cluj County, on 26 December 1930. After having graduated from the Pedagogical High School from Cluj-Napoca in 1950, he studied at the Faculty of Chemistry of “Babeş-Bolyai” University till 1954. In 1969 he defended his doctoral thesis entitled “*Paper Thermography*” under the supervision of Prof. Candin Liteanu, Ph.D.

After graduating from “Victor Babeş” University, he began his didactic activity at the Department of Physics of the Polytechnic Institute in Cluj-Napoca in 1954, and then he taught at the Pedagogical Institute. He became assistant professor in 1962 and lecturer in 1963. In 1973 he accepted a position of associated professor at the Department of Analytical Chemistry of the Faculty of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering, “Babeş-Bolyai” University. From 1990 till 1995, when he retired, he was full professor and head of the Analytical Chemistry Department. After having retired, he continued to keep in touch with research as consulting professor and in 2009 he was appointed honorary consulting professor.

Professor Simion Gocan is one of the first Romanian researchers who understood the importance of the separation methods in analytical chemistry. He introduced the course on *Separation Methods* in the faculty curriculum, particularly developing the chromatographic techniques.

All along his career he advised numerous students on their graduation papers. In 1990 he was accredited as a Ph.D. advisor and he tackled numerous aspects of fundamental and applied research in analytical chemistry. He advised thirteen doctoral students, seven of them

“stepped into his shoes” and followed an academic career. He trained researchers and he formed characters as well. He taught his disciples about the “Sisyphus work” to find the accurate scientific information and encouraged them “bond” with one another. He himself never turned down giving a helping hand when needed. This is how he laid the foundation of the Quality Control Laboratory for homeopathic and plant extracts analysis at PlantExtrakt Company in Cluj-Napoca.

Professor Gocan paid special attention to his didactic activity and to the necessity of transmitting the scientific information. He published numerous courses, practical guides, and collections of problems: *Guide for the Electronics and Radiotechnical Laboratories* (1964); *General Physics Course* (1971); *Analytical Methods of Separation - A Practical Guide* (1977); *Analytical Chemistry Course - Separation Methods* which had several editions: 1981, 1989, and 1995.

Professor Gocan authored or co-authored ten scientific books which were published in Romania. Mention must be made of: *The Fundamentals of Adsorption Column Chromatography* (1971); *Liquid Chromatography* (1974); *Analytical Immunochemistry* (1995); *Modern Methods for Organic Samples Processing* (2006). To these one must add three volumes in the series entitled *High Performance Chromatography: Gas Chromatography* (1998), *Liquid Chromatography* (2002), and *Thin-Layer Chromatography* (2005). Professor Gocan co-authored the ninth edition of *The Romanian Pharmacopoeia* (1976) as well.

He co-authored the book *Gradient Liquid Chromatography* (1974) and also authored chapters in “*Modern Thin Layer Chromatography*” (1990), “*Water Analysis*” (2000), “*Encyclopedia of Chromatography On-Line*” (2001) and “*Advances in Chromatography*” (2006), published by prestigious scientific publishing houses from abroad (Ellis Horwood, Marcel Dekker, and CRC Press).

Professor Gocan’s scientific activity resulted in 105 papers published in Romania (the first one was published in 1959) and 40 papers published in prestigious international journals (*Talanta*, *Pure and Applied Chemistry*, *Reviews in Analytical Chemistry*, *Journal of Chromatography A*, *Chromatographia*, *Planar Chromatography - Modern TLC*, *Journal of Pharmacology and Biomedical Analysis*, and many others). He got seventeen patents and eight research contracts. Due to his research activity, he became a member of numerous scientific societies of Chemistry and Analytical Chemistry in Romania and abroad.

Professor Simion Gocan left behind not only a very valuable and rich scientific work, but also many people who pay a respectful tribute to his memory.

Fama semper vivat!
Lector Dr. Simona Codruta Cobzac